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FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF

PROGRAM The Journal STATION Canadian Broadcasting Corporation

DATE April 21, 1983 10:00 PM CITY Toronto

SUBJECT Congressmen Solomon & Studds/Nicaragua

NEWSWOMAN: It's a story with all the classic trappings of CIA involvement; smuggled arms, well trained guerrillas, a left-leaning Central American country under attack, and a U.S. president denouncing the country as a hotbed of communism. A new Cuba involved in spreading arms and revolution throughout Latin America.

NEWSMAN: The country is Nicaragua, and the evidence is mounting every day that the CIA, with the support of Ronald Reagan, is backing a group of counter-revolutionaries fighting the Sandanista regime of the sparsely populated region of Northern Nicaragua.

[Sounds of bombs and gunshots.]

For a secret war, it has received an extraordinary glare of publicity. These pictures are of a training exercise, real bullets, in a counter-revoluntionary camp in the Honduras countryside. Key American legislators believe these men are being trained with CIA money to overthrow the Sandanista regime in Managua, and the legislators want it stopped. Government officials have consistently refused to discuss covert activities, but there's been so much pressure on the Administration, Ronald Reagan was forced to hold a mini-news conference on Nicaragua. He denied the U.S. was trying to overthrow the government.

PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN: Anything that we're doing in that area is simply trying to interdict the supply lines, which are supplying guerrillas in El Salvador.

NEWSMAN: Inside the training camp, one of the leaders of the Contras, as the insurgents are known, has a very different

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